

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington papers. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

In order to avoid delays, on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor of purpose.

The Retreat of Cronje.

The details of Lord Roberts' successes around Kimberley continue to cheer the English people, so long as the story of peace and disaster. General Cronje is in full retreat toward Bloemfontein, having abandoned Jacobsdal in evident haste. This is attested by the fact that the British captured large quantities of stores, together with seventy-eight wagons. Had the eastward movement of the Boers been merely a feint retreat, to draw the British into a dangerous position away from the railroad, it would hardly have been executed at such a heavy sacrifice. The particulars of the pursuit now being conducted by Gen. Kelly-Kenny, under the direct supervision, it is believed, of Gen. Kitchener, will be awaited with great interest. One report already received is that Gen. Cronje found it necessary to stop to rest his oxen, thus giving the British pursuers a chance to give fight. This indicates that the march to the east is being rapidly conducted, and is even suggested by the fact that in connection the London war experts are figuring on the part to be played by General Kitchener in the pursuit of the fleeing Boers, if the situation really develops into a flight. His most noted achievement was the pursuit of the Khalifa up the Nile and his ultimate destruction of that chieftain's force at Omdurman. He maintained then a thin line of communication with the base of supplies on the far-distant coast, although menaced by the mobile dervishes. There is now a considerable Boer force south of Jacobsdal, engaged in holding back the forces under Gatacre in Cape Colony. Two lines of possible action are being figured out with reference to this situation. One is that Kitchener will strike straight through toward Bloemfontein, ignoring for the present the enemy south of him, and relying on the line of defense along the railroad to Kimberley to keep him in supplies. The other is that he will seek to cut in between these southern Boer forces and their own base of supplies, which seems to be Bloemfontein, thus getting them between his own forces and those of Gatacre. It all depends upon the numbers to be told off for the invasion of the Free State as to whether the latter maneuver could well succeed.

Jacobsdal is about ninety miles from Bloemfontein, as the crow flies, and one hundred miles by road. The Boers in northern Cape Colony have pressed forward to Rensburg, which is about one hundred and fifty miles by rail from Bloemfontein. It may be part of the British plan to desist from advancing at Rensburg, thus holding the Boers there, while cutting through and securing the railroad line which runs north from that point, and upon which the Boers have relied for their supplies and the movement of troops into the elbow of Cape Colony. It is, therefore, among the probabilities that if the pursuit of Cronje continues there will be serious fighting for the possession of this line, the seizure of which by the British at any point north of the Cape Colony boundary line would materially lessen the area of Boer mobility.

Thus it appears that unless the present Boer movement is complacent—a supposition weakened by the circumstances of the abandonment of Jacobsdal—the campaign will now develop upon radically new lines, the first effect of which will be to determine the mastery of the lower Free State, with Bloemfontein the chief British objective.

Let It Stop Now.

As shown by a statement prepared from the records and published in yesterday's Star it is to be seen that Congress has already broken into the organic act to the extent of about \$1,000,000, half of which should in all justice have been levied upon the general government. Thus in a few seasons the District has been mulcted out of half a million dollars, with more to follow unless the present congressional policy of ignoring the act of 1878 is abandoned. This half million represents an absolutely forced gift to the government, of money belonging to the people of the capital. Most of it was money which had been accumulating from season to season as a surplus out of the District revenues, which should have been matched dollar for dollar by money from the federal treasury to carry on the local government and to extend the projects for capital improvement. According to the terms of the organic act, every dollar raised in the District should from year to year be absorbed in the budget on this basis. It is, therefore, a violation of that law for Congress to fail to appropriate as much from the federal treasury as the District raises by taxation. Thus the surplus has come to be by the failure of the lawmakers to live up to the original compact with the capital, and is now being squandered against the will of the people of the District in a manner distinctly contrary to that compact.

Let it stop at a million.

The news from South Africa begins to assume a character which may make Oom Paul wish he had a good, reliable corps of press censors.

It would have been a great shock to ex-Consul Macrum to find there was no chance of sympathy for him in the United States Senate.

It is hoped that the blizzard has not arranged for annual appearances.

Mr. Gorman's Conversion.

Mr. Gorman follows Mr. Croker into the Bryan camp. He does not go shouting, but he goes. He is convinced that the people want Mr. Bryan, and therefore he yields his own judgment. The change is of recent date. What has caused it? What has occurred recently to bring Mr. Gorman to the conclusion that the people want Mr. Bryan? Not the demonstrations in the south and west where the Nebraskaan appears, for they have been a feature of the country's life for nearly four years. Did the demonstration in Baltimore, when Mr. Bryan visited that city, affect Mr. Gorman's judgment? Has he since been gradually coming round, and is just now in a humor to proclaim himself? Mr. Bryan addressed a big crowd in the Maryland metropolis, and it was not mustered by Mr. Gorman and his friends, but rather against their wishes. Has Mr. Gorman persuaded himself that that crowd represented support for Mr. Bryan rather than curiosity to see and hear him?

How aggressive is Mr. Gorman to become, if aggressive at all, in Mr. Bryan's behalf? Will he follow up this declaration with something practical? Is it his purpose to head a delegation from Maryland to the democratic national convention instructed for Mr. Bryan for a second nomination for President? And, if so, will that support be unqualified, or conditioned upon allowing Mr. Gorman some voice in the making of the platform? And if Mr.

Gorman is consulted about the platform, what issue will he insist shall lead all the rest? Imperialism, trust, or government ownership of railroads? Then again, if Mr. Gorman is to become an active Bryanite, what is to be his part in the campaign? Mr. Bryan was so distrustful of him four years ago he objected to a proposition which would have brought Mr. Gorman into close association with Chairman Jones of the national committee. If that proposition is repeated, will Mr. Bryan again reject it? Mr. Gorman, as a campaign organizer and manager, has exhibited in Maryland and elsewhere talents of a high order. His peer in that particular is probably not to be found in the democratic party. If they are offered, can Mr. Bryan afford to decline services so valuable?

This conversion of Mr. Gorman raises a forest of interrogation points. It is full, indeed, of the most interesting suggestions.

A President Maker?

Is there a President in Mr. Macrum? This is not to ask if Mr. Macrum is himself a Presidential quantity. But has he concealed about his person anywhere proof of his assertion of the existence of a secret alliance between the United States and England? Of course, he must produce the proof, or his statement goes for nothing. Great as were his opportunities at Pretoria for fathoming diplomatic secrets involving his own country and England, and rare as his talents have been shown to be for solving difficult problems, the times are such that even such a man as he must have proof and must produce it. And the proof produced must prove. We are on the eve of a presidential election, and while "coddlings" of accusations will be in order and will be forthcoming, only those which are well drawn, and are at least probable, will be effective.

One cannot but think of what the effect might have been had Mr. Macrum reached home last fall in the closing days of the Ohio campaign. Mr. McLean, it will be remembered, made his race for governor on the secret alliance issue, but had nothing to offer the voters on the subject but the double-deal of his newspaper and the warm veneration of his stump orators. The voters listened, but were not convinced. They were so little impressed in that election that Secretary Hay was able to dispose of the yarn in a very few words of denial. But suppose that when the din was loudest Mr. Macrum had presented himself, hot from Pretoria, travel-stained, and exuding indignation at every pore. What a boon he would have been to Mr. McLean! How beautifully his loyalty to his party and his personal fondness for the President would have been set forth along with his stern determination to turn on the light at any cost!

But, though late for state uses, Mr. Macrum is in time for national uses, and the democratic leaders are swift to gobble him up. They will play him for the missing link. They will offer him to make good for Mr. Bryan's benefit what Mr. McLean failed to realize on for the want of a live, breathing, throbbing, indignant witness. Still, Mr. Macrum, if he is to turn the scales in the presidential contest, must first satisfy his individual statement. And in doing that—if he can do it—he will relieve himself of the present popular estimate, which has catalogued him as a shirk and something of a dunderhead.

The Spoilsman's Annual Fare.

The House has gone through its annual farce of striking out of the legislative bill the appropriation for the support of the civil service commission. Later on it will solemnly restore the provision to the bill, having given the spoilsman their yearly opportunity to vent their spleen upon the system which deprives them of a clean sweep of offices. The process has been so regularly conducted upon these lines for several years that the friends of civil service reform are never made anxious by the somersault of the House, for they realize that even if the foolish work done in committee of the whole were not reversed by the whole House later the Senate would undoubtedly insert the item. And even in the remote chance of the failure of the Senate to attend to the detail the civil service law would remain on the statute books as potent as ever, although the process of supplying clerks might require readjustment. This device of the ants serves at least the excellent purpose of permitting an annual show of the real fixity of the civil service system.

School Rentals.

The Commissioners have just supplied Congress with a statement of the amount annually spent by them in renting quarters for public school purposes, showing an aggregate of approximately \$14,000. This represents a heavy outlay for the service which should be wiped out by the provision of quarters owned by the District. It is particularly heavy when the quality of the accommodations afforded is considered. At 2 per cent this sum stands as the interest on a capital of about \$700,000. With such a sum invested in appropriate sites and buildings, large and small, the District would soon have more than treble the room and facilities that are now given by the rented quarters, many of which are old and inconvenient, if not a menace to the health of the children. With a capital representing this annual outlay 10 per cent the community could be given school houses of equal room and immensurable finer equipments, thus adding to the adornment of the District.

A poet recently gave up his seat on the New York stock exchange in order to devote himself to his chosen occupation. It is not at all probable that a man's circumstances permit him to give up business because it interferes with literature.

The Chinese government offers 100,000 taels for the capture of a reformer, dead or alive. Mr. Sam Jones of Toledo may be inclined to think he got off easy.

There is always a certain "to-be-continued-in-our-next" interest attaching to the reports of Boer retreats.

Mr. Frick seems determined to take Mr. Carnegie's mind off his work in philanthropy and education.

Europe can hardly fail to admire the skill which Kentucky displays in lingering on the verge of war.

Happy Marriages.

A Yale lecturer on social science has just declared to his classes that 90 per cent of all marriages nowadays are unhappy in their results, and that the marriage ceremonies should be simplified so that persons intending matrimony should merely go before witnesses and declare their intentions. It is no wonder that these strange sentiments, as the dispatches state, caused a marked sensation among the students. The lecturer had laid down the premise that the average young man of today considers condition of life and chooses a help-mate without waiting for the evolution of his true ideal and its realization. The consequence, according to the social science thinker, is that there are many happy marriages which do not attain the true state of wedded bliss and the divorce courts do the rest. Notwithstanding, he would make marriage easier by simplifying the forms and thus remove even the present slight barrier to true celibacy and matrimony. If he would at the same time contrive to make divorce correspondingly more difficult he would nearer a solution of whatever problem now exists in the social state. No amount of academic lecturing will change the trend of average human thought toward the mat-

rimonial ideal, although it has been asserted in some directions that the more general and more liberal education of the young people of today is tending toward the discouragement of matrimony, to the great concern of some sociologists. The necessity for reform lies not in these higher planes of intelligence, but along the lower lines, where the intellect has not yet attained sufficient force to cope with the emotions. The Yale lecturer to the contrary notwithstanding, the fate of the nation rests not with the young men whom he is addressing, or their university associates, there and elsewhere, but with the masses of men and women unreached by the ethical culture, who woo and wed without thought of the ideals bred in the atmosphere of classic evolution. Indeed, it may well be questioned whether in his ardent to impress a group of students with a startling dogma, this professor of social science has not exaggerated the situation, as is often the case with theorists who can neither be supported nor refuted by statistics. Exact figures of the happiness of homes are, of course, utterly impossible. Exact definition of unhappiness in the marriage relation is likewise impossible. It is therefore unfortunate that this solemn pronouncement should be given the apparent authority of an academic statement, while all palpable evidence is that the happy family is satisfactorily married, and only needs a more uniform law regulating marriage and divorce to sustain and advance an already high standard of matrimonial fidelity and happiness. If this be a sample of the present drift of the "higher education" the general plea will be for a return to perhaps lower but assuredly safer lines of human development.

The ground hog might be indulged in a few sarcastic references to the weather bureau predictions.

Count de Castellane says he likes the United States. He ought to. This is where the dollars grow.

SHOOTING STARS.

Qualified Praise.

"Is he a commanding figure in the politics of your community?" asked the stranger.

"Well," answered the Kentuckian reflectively, "he can make a pretty good speech. But he can't shoot very straight."

Important Trifles.

Do not despise the little things. A snowflake's very small. And for a time it lightly clings; Then melts. And that is all.

And yet with company enough. "Twill fill our hearts with pain, And help to make the blizzard rough That stops a railroad train."

An Educational Program.

"Is your boy's education nearly complete?" asked the friend.

"Yes," answered the man who is nothing if not sarcastic. "He knows the classics and the higher mathematics and logic and philosophy pretty thoroughly. I'm going to see if I can't put the finishing touches on his culture and get him so he can calculate the interest on a thirty-day note without getting brain-fog and read the daily news without yawning."

A Lesson.

"I think there is a lesson to be learned from that novel," said Willie Wychington. "So do I," answered Miss Cayenne. "It taught me better than to read any more books by that author."

Trying to Be Just.

"Isn't the weather uncertain?" exclaimed the man with a cold.

"I don't know," answered the ungainly acquaintance. "I haven't been able to make up my mind yet whether it's the weather that's uncertain or the predictions."

Shattered Hopes.

Spring seemed so near. Our hearts were light. And still vain expectations thrive. We wait to hail the swallow's flight. And greet the flowers as they arrive. We'll bid the woodland music sound. While each discordant note is still. We'll welcome spring with joy profound— That is to say, we think we will.

A Sullen cloud appears on high.

And frights away the crocus bold; A snowflake wanders from the sky, While winds their bitterness unfold. We think of sunny days just past. And vow we'll all be merry still. And then the rude and blustering blast Howls out: "Ha! Ha! You think you will!"

Decreased Cigarette Sales.

We congratulate the young men of this country on the fine record they have made in the matter of cigarette smoking for the month of January.

In this month the manufacture and sale of paper cigarettes in the two great cigarette making internal revenue districts fell off more than 25 per cent, as compared with last year.

This means a reduction of 43,405,970 cigarettes, which is 2,340,500 five-cent packages, amounting to about \$2,170,500.

In these millions of unused packages there is a potentiality of crime and crime is inevitable. Murders, burglaries, dissipation of all kinds, moral degeneracy and mental poison.

The youth of the land are beginning to recognize the danger in the little white coffin nats, and are showing a disposition to let them alone. They will be all the better for a total abstention, and the entire country would be correspondingly benefited.

Our Relations With Germany.

From the New York Tribune. Germany has almost entirely ceased to find fault with American meats, which are in all points up to official standards. The nominal excuse for the war was trivial compared with the terrible loss of life and the suffering it has already caused in two continents. In so far as enlightened public opinion has force in the affairs of nations it is already being exerted to bring about a cessation of the bloody struggle. Such pressure is legitimate, but if exerted in the way Senator Aldrich seeks it would only add fuel to the flame of war. Playing with firebrands is always dangerous business, especially in a powder magazine.

Needed a Censor.

From the Chicago Times Herald. Macrum has had his say. After a careful perusal of his statement we are forced to the conclusion that he had no intelligent friend to whom he could submit it for an opinion before its publication.

Overhead Wires.

From the Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph. The removal of overhead wires adds to the ugliness of the streets and to the safety of the buildings in case of fire. Thick networks of wire very much impede the operations of firemen. The place for all wires and cables is beneath the ground.

The Point of View.

From the Kansas City Star. Molnuev smiled when a verdict of guilty was returned against him, and as peacefully as a child after he returned to his cell from the court room. To his champions this will mean the settling of the question of innocence; to those who are certain that Molnuev is a murderer it will signify the persistence and sympathy of extreme depravity. It all depends on the point of view.

7300 1-lb. loaves to the barrel.

The Choicest Bread, Cake And Pastry

—can be made only of a "blended" flour. You can set this down as an established fact. WINTER WHEAT flour makes White Bread—but lacks strength. SPRING WHEAT flour makes nourishing Bread—and more of it, but darker.

Cream Blend FLOUR

—combines the VIRTUES OF BOTH Spring and Winter Wheat Flour. It's made of both. It's scientifically "blended" in such proportions as to embody the "cream" of each—preserving ALL the hygienic and nitrogenous elements of both.

Therefore if you want both QUALITY and QUANTITY in Bread, Cakes and Pastries use "Cream Blend."

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Hecht's Greater Stores.

Closing Notice.

We beg to state that this morning's announcement in the Post regarding our closing hour was a mistake on the part of our advertising man.

We Close Tonight at 9 o'clock.

Hecht & Company, 513-515 Seventh St.

The Greatest of All Our February Shoe Sales.

LADIES' \$3 & \$3.50 "Foot Forms" ONLY \$2 PAIR.

We advise any one who contemplates taking advantage of this opportunity to buy DESIRABLE SHOES at a very low price to come at once—as chances of being fitted are slipping away each day.

The lot still includes dull and bright Philadelphia kid with kid and patent leather tips—button and lace—all with WEILED SOLES and our silk-woven label inside. Reduced from \$3 and \$3.50 to \$2 pair.

Children's Weltd "Foot Forms"

—are also selling rapidly at present reduced prices—especially so, owing to the fact that this is the last time they will be made in a lower grade of leather. Reductions:

Ladies' sizes, \$3...now...\$2.50 Sizes 11 to 2, \$2.50—now \$2.00 Sizes 8 1/2 to 10 1/2, \$2.50, now \$1.75 Sizes 7 to 8, \$2.00—now \$1.50

Ladies' Storm Rubbers

49c. Pair

—round and common-sense toes; all sizes, reduced from 65c.

STORE CLOSED AT 9 P.M. Saturdays.

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Cor. F and 13th.

We Have No Auction Sales.

No "Auction" Furs.

Our Collections, Scarfs, Boas, Muffs, etc., were not brought up to sell for what they might bring. OUR FURS are now—stylish, elegant and of RELIABLE QUALITY. More than that, prices are REDUCED TO COST and even LESS. You wouldn't buy Diamonds in the way we sell our furs. FURS REPAIRED and ALIGNED.

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It's a STEAM MOTOR CARRIAGE—safe, economical and simple of construction—can be repaired by any mechanic. No license required.

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Comprising precise styles for spring and summer of 1900, as used by the leading Paris modistes—black in Paris today being greatly in evidence for both house and street gowns.

Special Reference is Made to Grenadines, Plain and Fancy, Which are particularly fashionable, and also unusually handsome and effective.

All-silk Grenadine, with satin stripe—45 inches wide. Yard.	\$1.75 and \$2.00	All-silk Grenadine, in fancy braided effect; with satin stripe—45 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.50
All-silk Grenadine, with chenille stripe—45 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.00	Iron-frame Grenadine, fine mesh—44 inches wide. Yard.	\$1.50
All-silk Crepon Grenadine, various stripes—45 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.00 to \$3.50	Iron-frame Grenadine, large mesh—44 inches wide. Yard.	\$1.75
All-silk Grenadine, with chenille dots, figures and stripes—45 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.50 to \$4.00	Iron-frame Grenadine, medium mesh—44 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.00
		Iron-frame Grenadine, medium mesh—44 inches wide. Yard.	\$2.50

Also Additional Importations in Imported Cotton Fabrics,

Manufactured in Great Britain and France, affording a very choice collection of elegant foreign cottons, comprising the proper sorts to meet the best Paris and London fashions. Included in part are:

Printed Plumetis, Satin Sublime, Belfast Dimities, Dimity Raye with satin stripes, Lace Zephyrs, Satin Stripe Gingham, French Brilliants, Madras Waistings in lace and corded effects; Lace Stripe Crepons, Embroidered Mousseline de Soie, Poult de Soie and Mousseline a Pois. Also Printed French Challis and Silk-Striped Javanaise, In New and Exquisite Effects.

The Javanaise, from one of the best French makers, are truly beautiful with their silk stripes and big and little polka-dots and figures. Also David & John Anderson's Gingham and Madras, In Plaids, Checks and Stripes, of the newest effects. Also Mercerized Piques in plain welts and fancies, The novelty of the season for Shirt Waists and Children's Dresses—Exclusive designs.

Monday, the Nineteenth, A Special Sale of Muslin Sheets, Pillow

and Bolster Slips.

We contracted for hundreds of dozens of Sheets and Pillow and Bolster Slips before the recent heavy advance in cotton cloths, and are thus enabled to offer the goods hemmed, dry laundered and ready for use, in many cases, as low as the manufacturers of cottons are asking dealers for the materials by the yard.

As an illustration a well-known make of cotton is quoted by the manufacturer as follows:

2 1/2 yards wide, 27 1/2 c. a yard.	65x 99 inches.
2 1/2 yards wide, 30 c. a yard.	65x108 inches.
We offer in same grade of muslin as quoted above, 3,000 Sheets.	72x 99 inches.
2 1/4x2 1/2 yards, 68c. each.	72x108 inches.
2 1/4x2 3/4 yards, 73c. each.	81x 99 inches.
2 1/2x2 1/2 yards, 73c. each.	90x 99 inches.
2 1/2x2 3/4 yards, 79c. each.	90x108 inches.
3-inch hem on all sheets 2 3/4 yards long.	
Also 200 dozen Pillow Slips,	
45x36 inches, made of either twilled or plain muslin, at 12 1/2 c. each.	
Also 100 dozen Bolster Slips,	
42x72 inches, made of good quality cotton, at 25c., 30c., 35c. and 40c. each.	
Also A special purchase of Sheets of the highest grades of muslin manufactured, which are	
"Wamsutta,"	
"New Bedford,"	
"Wamsutta Percale."	
The sheets are either 2 1/4 or 3 yards long and have 3-inch hem at top and 1-inch at bottom. Their measurements by inches are as follows:	
65x 99 inches.	
65x108 inches.	
72x 99 inches.	
72x108 inches.	
81x 99 inches.	
90x 99 inches.	
90x108 inches.	

The same also in hemstitched—plain spoke or finished hemstitch. Pillow Slips, Of same muslins, with plain hem or hemstitched—all torn (not cut) from the piece, 38 1/2 inches long with 3-inch hem. We quote 1,200 of these Pillow Slips, plain hem, the finest made, 45x38 1/2 inches. 25c. each.

Linen Department Offers 150 dozen Initial Towels, Hemstitched and warranted all linen; size 20x38 inches. All letters from A to Z. 25c. each—\$3 a dozen.

The Woodward & Lothrop Sewing Machines, \$18 to \$36. Women's, Misses' and Children's High-Button Arctic and Rubber Boots.

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"CERES" Flour

—to be the best as well as the most economical. One barrel of "CERES" FLOUR makes 320 1-lb. loaves of wholesome bread. It's the flour you should use. All grocers sell "CERES" Flour—accept no substitutes. We whole-sale it.

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ENVELOPES, to match the package. "ROYAL IRISH LINEN" PAPER, \$3.50 a ream up. "MONARCH BOND" \$1.50 up. "PURE FLAX LINEN" spread paper for correspondence, commercial and square—\$2.50 and \$3.00 a ream. 67 All the Popular Books, 25c. up. C. C. PURSELL, 418 9th St. NEW BOOKS, STATIONERY AND ENGRAVING. Tel. 5-1, 5-14.

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CARPETS CLEANED.

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It takes away the redness and roughness. Keeps the skin soft and smooth. Only 15c. CURE FOR IRRITATION OF OLD LIPER. Cures chaps and colds—strengthens the lips—keeps them up the entire season. Made up from every day. Only 50c. pint.

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Only 50c. pair.

Blizzard Leggings, 50c.